

EXCHANGE INITIATIVE – Real Resources to End Sex Trafficking— by Helen Sullivan CSJ

It started with a simple request: The Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph wanted a hotel for its 2011 conference that agreed to sign the tourism code of conduct developed by ECPAT-USA. "When the conference was over, we decided there was more that could be done. We wanted to do something with meeting planners and a code of conduct to continue to bring awareness to this issue." [Nix Associates] And so **Exchange Initiative**, newly formed by Nix Conference & Meeting Management, works to empower individuals and organizations with real resources to end sex trafficking, and to network all stakeholders in a common action to fight human trafficking across the United States.

As its first order of business, Exchange Initiative will host the **IGNITE Conference**, Sparking Action Against Sex Trafficking, at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel from March 2-4, 2014. The Conference calls upon participants from many institutions including Criminal Justice Professionals, First Responders, Corporate Managers and Travel Planners, Not-for-Profit &

Faith-Based Organizations, Educational Administrators & Counselors. Kimberly Ritter, of Nix Conference and Meeting Management says, "We are so excited to formally announce the Exchange Initiative and the IGNITE



Conference. The collaboration and support we are receiving from agencies across the US confirms the present need for a network."

If all of this sounds familiar to us CSJs and Associates, think back to the CSSJ Federation Event 2011. The planning that began several years before included a search for the site. Kathy McCluskey, CSJ, and the 2011 Event Committee¹ contracted with St. Louis-based Nix Conference and Meeting Management to help organize Event 2011 and Kimberly Ritter became the NIX coordinator.

At that time, we were among the many congregations of Saint Joseph who were working with other women religious and lay people to educate, raise awareness, and become involved in combating human trafficking. As the committee built on this



experience, two questions were asked of each hotel they considered: Do you have policies and procedures in place to address human trafficking, and: if we were to bring our event to this hotel, would you be willing to enter into a conversation with us that might lead to such policies and procedures? The manager and staff at the Millennium Hotel were eager to learn and act on these issues. This became an opportunity to work for systemic change. During the Event 2011, hotel representatives, staff, and conference attendees gathered to witness the signing of the tourism code of conduct developed by End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, or ECPAT-USA. Perhaps you were there in the lobby of the Millennium Hotel to witness that historic moment!

In preparing for the IGNITE Conference, Exchange Initiative has invited the public to lend their support by becoming sponsors. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston have donated \$1,000 to this conference in honor of Kathy McCluskey, CSJ, and the 2011 Federation Event Committee. The letter accompanying this sponsorship reads, "Please accept the enclosed check from the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston to help defray some of the expenses for your upcoming conference. We make this donation in honor of Kathleen McCluskey, CSJ, and the Event 2011 planning committee, who introduced you to the concerns of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph for human trafficking as they worked with you to plan our 2011 Conference in St. Louis. We wish you every success in your first national conference and hold you in prayer as you continue your endeavors to fulfill your mission and put an end to sex trafficking."

Today, as more and more people are aware of the evils of Human Trafficking, the [Exchange Initiative](http://www.exchangeinitiative.com/) promises to be an outstanding resource for increasing and expanding that awareness. Learn more about The Exchange Initiative and IGNITE at: <http://www.exchangeinitiative.com/>

¹ Other Boston CSJ members of the 2011 Event Committee included Mary Anne Doyle, CSJ, and Joanne Gallagher, CSJ

PICTURED ABOVE: Joyce DeShano, CSJ, Kim Ritter, Kathy McCluskey, CSJ, and Dominic Smart, Manager of the Millennium Hotel-St. Louis, at the signing of the ECPAT Code during the CSSJ U.S. Federation Event 2011

Join us for a Lenten Journey with the People of Haiti

Jesus called his followers to the three practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During Lent, these cherished practices help us to grow closer to God and to one another. This Lent, journey day-by-day with our "dear neighbors" in Haiti – praying, fasting and giving alms.

Following the earthquake that devastated Haiti in January 2010, the Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States and Canada partnered with Mission Haiti and pledged to help re-build the island and lives of its people by investing in the education of Haiti's most vulnerable citizens – its girls.

In 1998 Mission Haiti built Annunciation Grade School in Leogane, Haiti (18 miles west of Port au Prince). The school was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. The Sisters of St. Joseph in North America have pledged more than \$325,000.00 over 10 years in order to:

- ♦ support the education of 10 Haitian girls from primary through secondary school at schools run by the Sisters of the Company of Jesus in Leogane;
- ♦ provide three years of technical education for 10 girls;
- ♦ assist in the salaries for and certification of teachers; and
- ♦ provide partial financial assistance for building a secondary school in Leogane.
- ♦ We invite you to join us in helping to educate the girls at Annunciation School. We can't fulfill our pledge to the girls and teachers of the school without your help.

You can join us in bringing hope, healing and an education to the girls at Annunciation by downloading our

[Sisters of St. Joseph Lenten Calendar](#). Learn more about this project at: [God's Design: Weaving a Charism of Communion in the Global Neighborhood](#)

Online readers: click the links above and download this Lenten Calendar and view a PowerPoint presentation to learn more about this project.

Each day you will learn about the grim statistics of education, poverty and unemployment in Haiti and have an opportunity to pray, fast or support our dear neighbors in Haiti. When you have completed your Lenten Journey, you may send your donation by check payable to:

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Office of Justice and Peace - Haiti Project for Girls
c/o Helen Sullivan, CSJ • 637 Cambridge Street • Brighton, MA 02135

Note: We are grateful to our Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden, PA for creating this Lenten Calendar and sharing the information above.



Meet the children we are committed to educate. These are nine of the ten girls who are presently in second grade. (School year 2013-14) They are bright, beautiful and full of energy. Their names are: Taila, Sorina, Rose, Kemberlie, Laurie, Princesse, Sheidna, Geraldine, Rose, and Ferlanda. And their teacher's name is Erline.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK LAUNCH WEEKEND

Friday, March 07, 2014 - Sunday, March 09, 2014

We are pleased to share that Betsy Conway, CSJ, Campus Minister at Regis College, and Jackie Salas, Senior at Regis College, will participate in this weekend and join with other women religious from a variety of congregations and college students to establish a strong network of college-age women, sisters, and others across the country. Visit www.csjboston.org for more and for updates about this weekend!



Online readers, click here to read more about NCSW
[National Catholic Sisters Week](#)

Dates to Remember

- MARCH 5, WED., 11:45AM — ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE — Motherhouse Brighton
- MARCH 5, WED., 5:00PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 6, THURS., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 8, SAT., 9:30AM — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — Motherhouse Brighton [snow date: Sunday, March 9]
- MARCH 8-14 NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK — visit the [News & Events](#) section of our website for more
- MARCH 9, SUN., 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 9, SUN., 4:30 PM — PRAYER AND SIMPLE SUPPER FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM — Motherhouse
- MARCH 12, WED., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 13, THURS., 7:00PM —TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse — All Welcome
- MARCH 15, SAT., 9:30AM-2:30PM — CONGREGATION GATHERING
— STEWARDSHIP AND FUTURE PLANNING FOR CSJs — Details to follow.
- MARCH 18, TUES., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 19, WED., — 7:00PM-ST. JOSEPH DAY LITURGY — Motherhouse
— reply to Leanne.nassise@csjboston.org or 716.746.2029 before March 14, 2014
- MARCH 23, SUN., 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 24, MON., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- APRIL 3, THURS., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- APRIL 5, SAT., 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. — CONGREGATION GATHERING
— CSJ MAXIMS ~ LOVE'S DESIGN FOR THE NOW with Marcia Allen, CSJ — details to follow
- APRIL 9, WED., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- APRIL 10, THURS., 7:00PM —TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse — All Welcome

